



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420**

June 24, 2019

In Reply Refer To: 001B
FOIA Request: 19-08153-F

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin R. Evers
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the Initial Agency Decision (IAD) to your May 30, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Your request was received by the VA FOIA Service on May 30, 2019. Your request was referred to and received by the Office of the Secretary (OSVA) on June 5, 2019. You requested a copy of "all letters, news articles, forwarded articles, memos, or any other record bearing a handwritten annotation by President Donald Trump." You requested the search be limited to the records of Former Secretary David Shulkin, Secretary Robert Wilkie, and any assistants keeping records on their behalf for the time period of January 20, 2017 through the date of the search.

We have assigned FOIA Tracking Number **19-08153-F** to your request. Please refer to it whenever communicating with the OSVA about your request.

On June 14, 2019, the OSVA conducted a search of the Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the OSVA. The search was limited to paper files as the request was seeking handwritten annotation by President Donald Trump.

The search conducted by the OSVA met with negative results. Please be advised that no responsive records pertaining to your request were found.

FOIA Mediation

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. Under the provisions of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, the following contact information is provided to assist FOIA requesters in resolving disputes:

VA Central Office FOIA Public Liaison:

Name: Doloras Johnson

Email Address: vacofoiaservice@va.gov

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

Email Address: ogis@nara.gov

Fax: 202-741-5769

Mailing address:

National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road

Mr. Austin R. Evers
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College Park, MD 20740-6001

FOIA Appeal

This concludes OSVA's IAD response to request **19-08153-F**. Please be advised that should you desire to do so, you may appeal the determination made in this response to:

Office of General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly indicate the basis for your disagreement with the determination set forth in this response. Please be advised that in accordance with VA's implementing FOIA regulations at 38 C.F.R. § 1.559, your appeal must be postmarked no later than ninety (90) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Ruthann

Parise 941640

Digitally signed by
Ruthann Parise 941640
Date: 2019.06.24
10:19:47 -04'00'

Ruthann Parise
OSVA FOIA Officer